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FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY: Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia
SUBJECT: Argentine Origin of ~~Revolucionario~~ ^{Revolucionario} Obrero La Escoba
in Uruguay

REPORT NO. HAB-650
DATE OF INFO: September 1951-Present

DATE ACQUIRED: 1 April 1954

PLACE ACQUIRED: Argentina, Buenos Aires

DATE OF REPORT: 19 April 1954

SOURCE, SOURCE EVALUATION, APPRAISAL OF CONTENT

European journalist from individual with high-level Argentine Government contacts (B).
Appraisal of Content: 3.

1. After the fiasco of the military putsch plan by General MENENDEZ on 28 September 1951, the leadership of the German Nazi Group in Argentina, acting upon a suggestion made by Johann von LEERS, decided to request the Argentine Subsecretariat for Propaganda to form a Nazi-type workers' movement in Uruguay. In the justification it was stated that one could take action, in terms of psychological warfare, only through the Uruguayan worker masses "against the total Judaizing and corruption in Uruguay, which constitutes the bastion of the U.S. in this region". This plan was presented by Ludwig FREUD, Arturo PONS BEDOYA, and Jose ESPEJO to the Ministers Raul MENDE and Roman SUBIZA and to the Chief of Coordinacion Federal (Federal Police), Jorge OSINDE, who approved it unanimously. However, Raul MENDE wanted to be assured that a Peronist-supported anti-Semitic action taken by workers would not be found offensive by the Communists. Accordingly, Col. Hans RUDOLPH ordered Dr. Hans MAHLER to get in touch with his prominent (half-official) Communist partner, Juan Jose REAL, in order to sound out Communist opinion. REAL made no reply until December 1951, but the reply was very positive. It contained only the condition that Omar DIAZ, who had been chosen as "founder" of the new workers' movement and had already served Peronism confidentially for some time, should first inform Enrique PASTORINO, Secretary General of the Uruguayan UGT, of the matter to assure smooth functioning of the plan.
2. Shortly after the Communists had given approval, ~~Enrique PASTORINO~~, ^{Dolfo FREUD}, son of Ludwig FREUD, who at that time acted as liaison officer between the Argentine Presidency and the exiled Bolivian politician, Victor PAZ Estensoro, then living in Buenos Aires, told the latter that President PERON wished him to travel to Montevideo to give Omar DIAZ appropriate instructions. PAZ Estensoro was also to encourage his supporters living in exile in Montevideo to work closely with Omar DIAZ, in order that the newly founded revolutionary workers' movement should not immediately awaken the impression that it was directly inspired from Buenos Aires.

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3. PAZ Estensoro travelled to Montevideo about the end of January 1952 and passed the instructions on to Omar DIAZ. Simultaneously, he turned over to the former Vice President of Bolivia (under VILLAROEL), Clemente INFANTES, living in Uruguay, 50,000 copies of pamphlets which had been sent to Montevideo via Argentine courier service. These lithographed (not printed) pamphlets contained the program of the anti-Semitic revolutionary workers' movement.

4. As Omar DIAZ was about to hold the first meeting of the movement in February 1952, he suddenly received word from Enrique PASTORINO to delay starting the movement until the end of March 1952. PASTORINO stated that the appearance of the movement at that time would disturb the "Continental Peace Conference" scheduled to take place in Montevideo in March, in which many Jews would take part. Any adverse reaction of these Jews could only serve U.S. interests and should therefore be avoided.

5. Omar DIAZ reported this to Buenos Aires and received word from the Propaganda Subsecretariat through ATLAS about the end of March 1952 to temporarily postpone the whole matter, since the impending Bolivian revolution might eventually be taken as a (neo) Nazi action. (The reports made by Omar DIAZ are held in the archives of the Propaganda Subsecretariat.)

6. In May 1953 Buenos Aires eventually gave Omar DIAZ the signal to begin with the revolutionary workers movement in Uruguay and to start publication of the newspaper "La Escoba." According to the instructions DIAZ received, he was to confer carefully with Enrique PASTORINO on the role each of them was to play in the undertaking.

Sources Comment:

In the light of the foregoing, it can hardly be regarded as pure coincidence that Walter Edgar PINO, a collaborator of Omar DIAZ, fled from the Uruguayan Police into the Bolivian Embassy in Montevideo in January 1954. It is also hardly coincidence that shortly after this incident, which excited the Uruguayan public, Martinez TRUEBA, the President of the Uruguayan Government Council and Foreign Minister, PITTAUCA received the highest Bolivian decoration from PAZ Estensoro through the Bolivian Ambassador, in order to quiet the whole matter. In the meantime, the newspaper "La Escoba" continued to appear in as many as 70,000 copies.

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